

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 24-29 remain rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 6-9 and 25-28 of U.S. Patent No. 6,011,555. In order to expedite prosecution, Applicant submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer, which obviates the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that the claims are in condition for allowance. In the Office Action, the Examiner states:

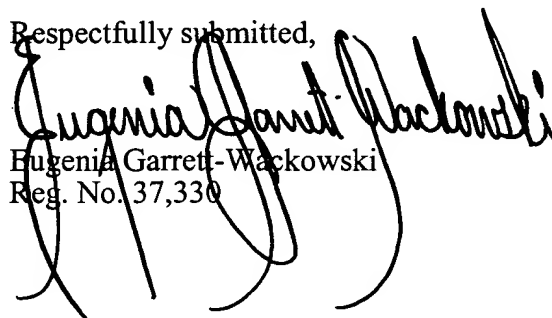
In the amendment submitted December 20, 2004, Applicant successfully defines disulfide compounds that are membrane-impermeant with NC cross-linking activity encompassed by the invention. The claims are free of the art. (*see page 2 of the Office Action*).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


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